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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 002392

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DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Europe will reward TRNC for 'yes' - Milliyet
TRNC asks EU to freeze Greek Cypriots' membership - Sabah
Powell promises Gul to end isolation of TRNC - Sabah
UN bids farewell to Cyprus - Aksam
Cheney cited about energy lobbies again - Aksam
Thousands of Americans warn Bush to keep abortion legal -
Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

EU urges Turkey to recognize the Greek Cypriot state -
Cumhuriyet
Ankara asks US, EU to remove sanctions on northern Cypriots
- Radikal
Ankara launches diplomatic attack against TRNC sanctions -
Zaman
US reviews Cyprus policy - Zaman
EU to release Euro 260 million for Turkish Cypriots -
Radikal
Cheney's man Lundquist involved in energy irregularity -
Yeni Safak
Americans replace outgoing Spanish troops in Iraq - Zaman
Fallujah under fire - Zaman
Turmoil continues in Fallujah - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Cyprus: EU foreign ministers said they are determined to end the isolation of northern Cyprus after the April 24 reunification referendum failed because of an overwhelming 'no' vote on the Greek Cypriot side of the island. Euro260 million was released as an initial step to support the economy of 'TRNC.' The EU will work to integrate the north and south of Cyprus economically and develop relations between the two sides, say papers. The EU is preparing to open an office in the Turkish side, and will accept the Green Line buffer zone dividing Cyprus as the EU border, mainstream dailies note. However, "Cumhuriyet" says the EU has urged Ankara to recognize the Greek Cypriot state and pull troops out of Turkish Cypriot north of the island. The 'Prime Minister' of the Turkish Cypriot enclave, Mehmet Ali Talat, calls for the EU to freeze the membership of the Greek Cypriots until a solution is reached to the division of the island. Talat has also written the EU foreign ministers and urged them to establish direct relations with the 'TRNC' and asked to expand the circulation of goods between the two zones in Cyprus. Secretary of State Colin Powell said US was reviewing its policies toward the Turkish Cypriot north, and added that US actions would be parallel to the EU policies, write papers. Powell called Turkey's Foreign Minister Gul to praise the constructive approach of the Turkish Cypriots and vowed to continue US support for the Turkish side of the island, say reports. Turkish dailies expect 'PM of TRNC' Talat to meet with Secretary Powell in Washington next week. Dailies speculate that Ankara would not object to prospective US and EU policies of 'by-passing' Denktas and holding official meetings directly with the Turkish Cypriot government. On Monday, the GOT and the National Security Council (NSC) called for the US and the EU to keep the promises they made to northern Cyprus by

ending the embargo.

Turkish peacekeepers for Afghanistan: The US seeks more Turkish soldiers for duty in Afghanistan, with the arrival of the new troops planned for 2005 for active operations outside Kabul, papers quote US NATO envoy Nick Burns. FM Gul will discuss the issue at a meeting with the NATO Secretary General Scheffer in Istanbul on Wednesday.

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"Cumhuriyet" reports Congressman John McCain as saying to CBS that Turkish troops and peacekeepers from other Muslim countries should be deployed in southern Afghanistan.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Cyprus

"Cyprus: Gains and Losses"

Yilmaz Oztuna commented in the conservative-mass appeal Turkiye (4/27): "Under the current circumstances, Turkey should be able to receive a date from the EU in the upcoming December summit. Turkey has also gained an important benefit from the referendum in that there is no way the EU can place Turkey on the irreconcilable side of the Cyprus issue. With the help of the northern Cypriots' yes to the Annan Plan and the EU's vision of Turkey, we have two important components of continuing to be part of the modern civilized world, which is the most important benefit of all. . There will be another important gain if the embargoes against Turkish Cyprus are lifted. In fact, a unique opportunity was missed due to the unfortunate attitude of the Greek Cypriot side. Had the Annan Plan been approved by the both sides, it would be a relief for everyone, including the whole of Cyprus, the US, the EU and the UN."

"Withdrawing forces from Cyprus"

Fatih Altayli suggested in the mass appeal Hurriyet (4/27): "The referenda results are not the best outcome for Turkish Cypriots, yet they still provide hope and optimism for the future. The current process has gained a dynamic momentum and the northern side will be the winner regardless of what comes next. Turkey is also on the winners' side. It would not be realistic to expect the embargoes to be immediately lifted and recognition process to be immediately initiated. Yet, it is absolutely realistic to see things developing to the benefit of the north. In sum, this is a win-win case for both Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot side. . This is the very time to take an initiative that will enhance Turkey's position: reduce the number of Turkish troops on the island. If Turkey manages to do this, it will provide enormous diplomatic benefits for us."

"Is the Problem Over?"

Sami Kohen opined in the mass appeal Milliyet (4/27): "The ability of the Turkish side of Cyprus to preserve the benefits gained with the referendum depends on the strategy it will follow. A policy that aims at permanent division or separation will bring huge problems in the future, especially, for Turkey, which expects a date from the EU in December, and for the Turkish Cypriots, who want the embargoes to be fully lifted and hope to join the EU (immediately after the Greek Cypriot accession) in the near future. Therefore, following their latest diplomatic success, it would be useful for the Turkish side to keep its options open for the realization of the 'Republic of the United Cyprus.' Of course, for this, the Greek side will need to show a serious change in its stance and correct its 'oxi' mistake. And, for everyone's benefit, this change has to be realized, as soon as possible, before the roads are separated fully."

EDELMAN